Volume 1
Chapter 8

W-WHILE MAKING SHORT WORK OF THE OWLBEARS THAT POSE NO REAL CHALLENGE TO ME ANYMORE
S-SO I CONTINUED TO QUICKLY ADVANCE THROUGH THE CAVE...
ON THE WAY, I HAPPENED TO RUN INTO A METAL SLIME
HM?
HUFF
HUFF
TAIL GET-WEEN YOUR
IF YOU'RE GONNA RUN AWAY ANYWAY, DO IT NOW, YOU PUSSY!! I'M NOT EVEN HERE FOR YOU! DO THE ONLY THING YOU CAN AND RUN WITH YOUR...
BUT I FIGURED IT WOULD RUN AWAY ANYWAY AND...
TEL IT GOT PISSED AND BURNED MY BANGS OFF WITH BLAZE
GAH!!
STARTED INSULTING IT AND GOT A BIT PERSONAL AND ALL...
SFX: WHAM

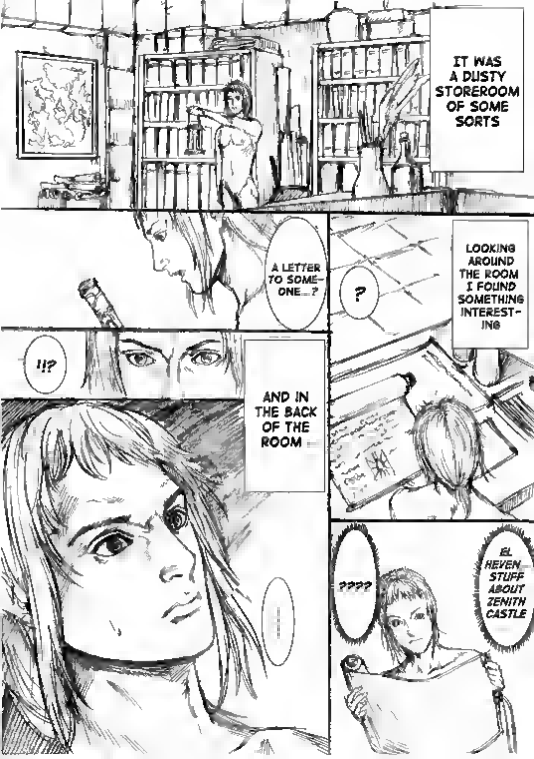
WHEW
A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS HAPPENED AFTER THAT, BUT IT SEEMS I'VE FINALLY MADE IT TO THE LOWEST FLOOR
SO TOUGH I ONLY HAVE ONE MEDICAL HERB LEFT IN MY INVENTORY AND AS IF THAT ALONE WASN'T ENOUGH, I'M POISONED TOO
ERR... LET'S SEE HOW MANY HERBS I HAVE LEFT...
BY THE WAY, IT'S TOUGH HAVING TO DEAL WITH SEVERAL MONSTERS AT ONCE BY YOURSELF
WHEN I RAN INTO A LAKE AT THE END OF THE CAVE...
I WAS ALREADY THINKING OF MY ESCAPE ROUTE...
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE IF I RUN FROM EVERY BATTLE ON MY WAY OUT OF HERE...

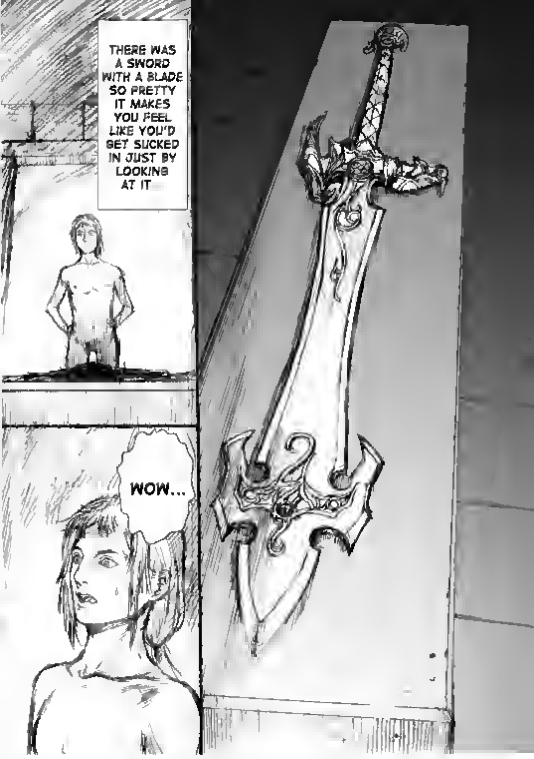
I WAS FLABBER-GASTED
OKAY, I DIDN'T THINK I'D FIND A GODDAMN LAKE IN HERE...
.....
BUT THAT ENTRANCE ON THE OTHER SIDE SEEMS TO BE YELLING AT ME, "THE SECRET TREASURE IS THIS WAY!"...
AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HEAD BACK AS THIS IS THE LOWEST FLOOR OF THE CAVE
...
ALL RIGHT !!
AFTER SOME CONTEM-PLATING
BUT THEN AGAIN, I'M POISONED WITHOUT ANY ANTIDOTAL HERBS LEFT, I CAN'T WALK AROUND TOO MUCH
UHH IS THERE SOME KIND OF WAY TO CROSS THE LAKE I AM MISSING?
I DECIDED TO SWIM OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE
WHOA!

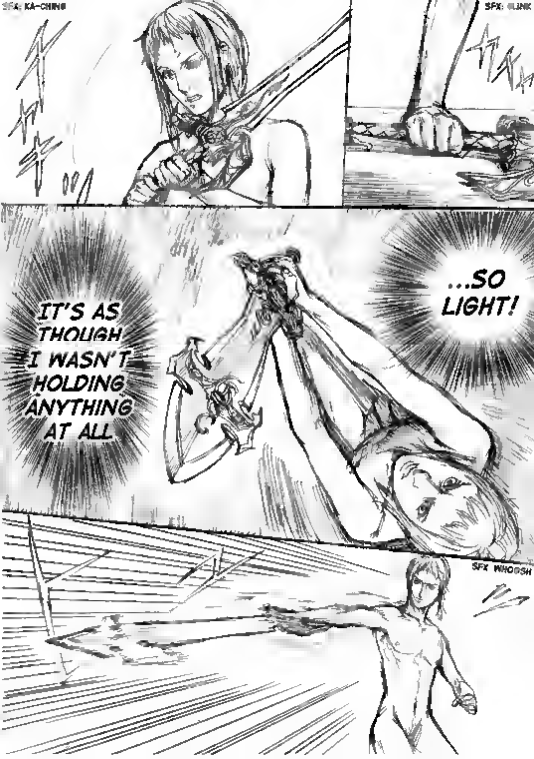
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CROSS A SHORT DISTANCE LIKE THIS EASILY...
THANKS TO ALL THE SWIMMING PRACTICE I'VE DONE TO STALK PAPAS...
SFX: BLUB BLUB BLUB...
SFX: SPLASH SPLASH
THIS IS BAD
I SUNK LIKE A LOG WITHIN 10 METRES WITH ALL THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT ON
GOD THE SPEAR IS HEAVY !!
HUFF
HUFF
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT BEFORE I JUMPED INTO THE LAKE
BUT IF THERE ARE MONSTERS OVER THERE, I'LL BE DEAD WITHIN A MINUTE WITHOUT ANY EQUIPMENT...
WHAT DO I DO NOW
I CAN'T GET TO THE OTHER SIDE IF I DON'T LEAVE ALL MY EQUIPMENT HERE...
SFX: SHAKE SHAKE
I DECIDED TO STRIP NAKED
ALL RIGHT!!
AFTER SOME MORE CONTEMPLATING...

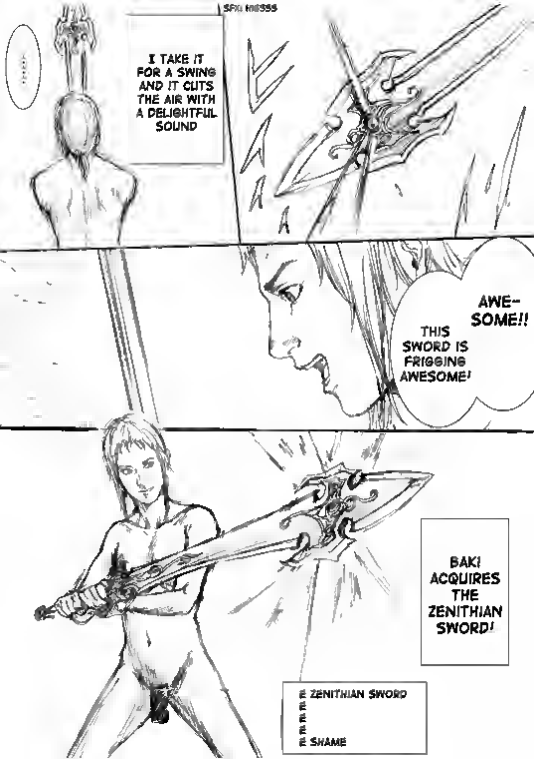
OH SHIT
OH SHIT
NUH!!!
SFX: SPLASH
AND JUMPED INTO THE WATER NAKED JUST LIKE THAT...
I FIGURED, I HAD TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE TO GET HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL CHECK IT OUT
HAVING SOMEHOW MADE IT TO THE OTHER SHORE...
UH HHH
I STEELED MY RESOLVE AND HEADED TOWARDS A NEW SET OF STAIRS LEADING DOWN
AHHH HHHHH HH!!!
THE WATER IS FRIGGING COLDWWW
WHOAw I FORGOT IT'S THE MIDDLE OF WINTERWWW
SFX: BOING BOING

?
THEN I DESCENDED THE STAIRS ...
A DOOR?
!!
WHAT, THERE'S A HIDDEN ROOM AT THE END OF THIS CAVE?
I ENTERED THE ROOM EXPECTING THE WORST
SINCE THE DOOR WASN'T LOCKED FOR SOME REASON


IT WAS A DUSTY STOREROOM OF SOME SORTS
A LETTER TO SOME-ONE...?
?
LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM I FOUND SOMETHING INTEREST-ING
!!?
AND IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM...
????
EL HEVEN STUFF ABOUT ZENITH CASTLE


THERE WAS A SWORD WITH A BLADE SO PRETTY IT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'D GET SUCKED IN JUST BY LOOKING AT IT
WOW...


SFX: KA-CHING
SFX: CLINK
IT'S AS THOUGH I WASN'T HOLDING ANYTHING AT ALL
...SO LIGHT!
SFX WHOOSH


I TAKE IT FOR A SWING AND IT CUTS THE AIR WITH A DELIGHTFUL SOUND
AWE-SOME!!
THIS SWORD IS FRIGGING AWESOME!
BAK! ACQUIRES THE ZENITHIAN SWORD!
E ZENITHIAN SWORD
E
E
E SHAME

SATISFIED WITH HOW AWESOME THE SWORD IS, I SAT DOWN TO READ THE LETTER
NO WAY...!!
ACCORDING TO IT, PAPAS HAD FORESEEN HIS DEATH IT ALSO CONTAINED SOME INFO ABOUT HIS WIFE AND HIMSELF...
THE LETTER WAS FROM PAPAS AND ADDRESSED TO HIS SON PURPLE

THERE WAS SOMETHING WRITTEN ABOUT A CERTAIN HERO TOO
A HERO...!!
IS THIS SWORD FOR THAT HERO?
THEN THAT MEANS, THIS SWORD
EEEEEE SELF-RESPECT
BAKI DISCARDS THE ZENITHIAN SWORD!

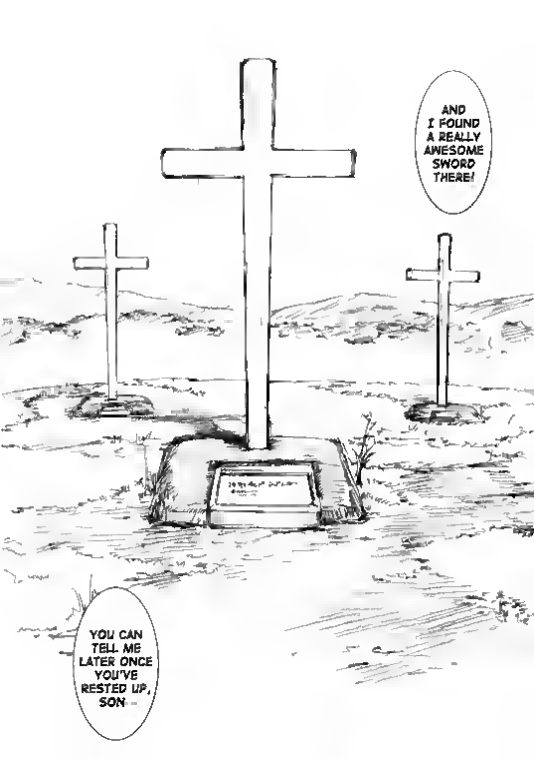
I MEAN, COME ON, YOU CAN'T TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT A HERO...
AND EXPECT ME TO KNOW WHAT TO DO
THE UNEXPECTED SCALE OF THE WHOLE THING MADE ME SHAKE IN MY BOOTS
BUT
WHAT IF PURPLE HAS ALREADY PASSED AWAY?
IT'D BE JUST WRONG IF SOME OUTSIDER LIKE ME CAME AND TOOK THEM
BESIDES, THE LETTER WAS MEANT FOR PURPLE AND THAT GOES FOR THE SWORD TOO...
SFX: LAM
BEFORE I RETURN HERE
I FINALLY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT I'LL JUST HAVE TO LOOK FOR PAPAS' HOME TOWN AND PURPLE FIRST...
AFTER PONDERING FOR A WHILE FOR THE THIRD TIME, I DECIDED TO LEAVE BOTH THE SWORD AND LETTER THERE

SO I LEFT THE ROOM IN THE BASEMENT BEHIND...
STILL FULLY NAKED
REMEMBERING THE POISON PUT A REAL DENT IN MY MOOD
CRAP, I FORBOT I'M STILL POISONED
THEN SWAM IN THE COLD WATER BACK TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAKE

AH... SHIT... MY MIND'S GOING ALL FUZZY...
SFX: BLUR BLUR
!!
HUFF
ERR WHERE WAS THE EXIT AGAIN?
HUFF
I GOT TO THE OTHER SIDE, PUT MY WHOLE EQUIPMENT BACK ON AND LEFT THE CAVE
!!
!?
ON THE WAY OUT, I RAN INTO A GROUP OF METAL SLIMES
CURIOUSLY, THE SLIMES IMMEDIATELY STARTED TO RAIN BLAZE DOWN ON ME
WHOA! THEY'RE FAST!!
SFX: WHAM

HUFF
HUFF
I SOMEHOW MADE IT OUT OF THE CAVE AND WAS GREETED BY THE WARM SUN AND THE BLUE SKY
FUGO!!
BEFORE I REALIZED IT, WINTER WAS ENDING AND SPRING WAS ALREADY IN THE AIR

WHICH REMINDS ME, IT'S BEEN ALMOST A WHOLE YEAR SINCE I STARTED STALKING PAPAS...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!!?
HEH
I'VE MADE IT TO THE END OF THE CAVE AND BACK!!
YEAH! GOOD JOB!
BUT LET ME TEND TO YOUR WOUNDS FIRST
I WONDER IF I WAS ABLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS THIS YEAR, EVEN IF ONLY A LITTLE...
...FOR NOW, I'LL HEAL UP AT THE OLD MAN'S PLACE
THERE'S A ROOM AT THE END OF THE CAVE, Y KNOW?
UH-HUH
AFTER THAT...
I'LL HAVE TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR A FAREWELL AND A LONG TRIP...


AND I FOUND A REALLY AWESOME SWORD THERE!
YOU CAN TELL ME LATER ONCE YOU'VE RESTED UP, SON.

Appendix:

Characters in chapter 8:

8aki

Boat man

Papas (Pankraz)

Purple (The Hera)

Mansters in chapter 8:

Owlbear

Metol Slime

Whockomole (Hammerhood)

Lacatians in chapter 8:

- Santa Rasa (Whealbraok)
- El Heven (Lafty Peak)
- Zenith castle

Spells in chapter 8:

- Blaze (Frizz)